

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

London Bureau

7683

"CIS # 4,026"

6 August 1947

VIA AIR MAIL

Acting Chief,
Foreign Broadcast Information Branch,
2430 E Street, NW,
Washington, D.C.

Dear [redacted]

I received a letter from [redacted] this morning enclosing two memoranda (copies attached) which [redacted] issued to the Cairo staff on 31 July 1947. [redacted] was upset because these memoranda gave him no authority whatever to carry out the job we sent him to [redacted] to perform. This action on [redacted] part is extremely irritating since we can ill afford to have a man of [redacted] abilities wasted in [redacted] in view of the fact that the [redacted] file needs to be worked upon more than that of any other Bureau. I have written [redacted] a very sharp letter (copy attached) asking for an explanation and instructing him to make full utilization of [redacted] while he is out there. I realize that it is a bad practice to issue such orders to a Bureau Chief from this distance but with the present shortage of competent personnel we can ill afford to permit [redacted] to indulge in internal office politics. My letter should straighten things out temporarily pending my arrival there in September.

I received Carey's classified message yesterday instructing me to obtain Treasury approval prior to starting out with the Survey Team. I have done just about all I can at the moment to get that approval out of the Treasury and it does not appear likely that an answer will be forthcoming before another two weeks at least.

In the meantime I have taken over active administration of the London Bureau. There are certain practices here which are carry-overs from the wartime organization which I think we can safely eliminate now. For example, if we can still get the same volume of copy into Washington between the hours of 0100 EST and 1500 EST we will be able to operate the [redacted] wire desk with not more than five editors and possibly the job can be done with four editors. Also I believe that three report writers are adequate for the foreseeable future. These changes will reduce the total number of teletype operators required and I expect, after a reasonable period of trial, that we will be able to reduce the staff of teletypists to eight. Another operational change I think necessary is the consolidation of the London administrative office with the operating unit at [redacted]. This will have the obvious advantage of centralizing the operation under one roof and enable [redacted] to devote much more of his time to the direct supervision of the editorial activities. I discussed all this with [redacted] while I was here last and he had planned/

SEE REVERSE FOR CLASSIFICATION ACTION

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[redacted]

planned to make this change as soon as he returned from the States. As long as I am here, however, I think I might as well put it into effect. The above changes should save us in the neighborhood of \$16,000 per year in salaries alone.

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The [redacted] resignation went through very smoothly and the papers will be in the mail to you under separate cover tomorrow or Friday.

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As a result of the operational changes made at [redacted] the personnel situation here is not as critical as I led you to believe in my classified message of last week. I would like to get a replacement fairly soon for [redacted] however, since the additional editor would help out on the vacation problem. I hope [redacted] can be cleared as the replacement for [redacted]. The senior staff members of the [redacted] remember [redacted] quite favorably and would be quite happy to have him return to FBIS.

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It is quite important that the new Administrative Assistant report for duty here on or about August 20th. She will be working at [redacted] after 1 September and I have arranged for her lodging there until she has an opportunity to make her own arrangements.

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Hope you are not having too much trouble with the Civil Service classification ratings and will get most of what we want. When you write next, please let me know what the final outcome of the Unification Act is as it affects CIG. Was the House amendment requiring a Civilian Director retained in the final Bill?

I am having a reasonably pleasant tour of duty here and am taking advantage of the opportunity to get my hand in at running a wire file. Hope life is not too hectic for you these days.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

Chief, FBIB

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Attachments

RMS/rb